

April 30, 1975

in Kearney and North Platte and Scottsbluff and Omaha and Bellevue and Lincoln and the rest of the communities to determine their destiny, this is the approach. If you don't, then if you are prepared to raise the sales and income tax higher to provide for those services, that's the other approach and I think that is up to the judgment of this Legislature but that is the issue. The issue is whether you want local control, whether you want local elected people from your community making the decisions that effect those schools or whether you want it done at the state level and whether you want it funded at the state level and whether you want to take more income tax and sales tax to do that job. You can't have it middle ground and what we have attempted to do is to make that as low as possible on property tax and still yet trying to assure that there will be a quality program for children seeking...and adults seeking vocational education. I would think that those that oppose the bill would oppose it on the basis of either accepting one or the other of those philosophies and let's not kid ourselves with amendments that seek to do this, that or the other. Certainly the bill came from people that had an interest in this but I can certainly tell you that Senator Kremer has done a fine job in hammering out what we needed to do and when we needed to do. It was not a bill handed to the Committee which the Committee just automatically endorsed and sent out on the floor. The issue was discussed. I believe we've presented to you a sound proposal, and if you agree with the proposal as we have it and if you agree with the concept of local control, of local Boards, then I think you ought to accept this. If not, then you ought to accept another approach of state but let's not try to dilly and dally around with the issues. I think that those that oppose this on a philosophical basis that it ought to be state support ought to introduce a kill motion and get rid of it, if that is the desire of the majority of the members of this Legislature. If not, then let's move this bill across and institute it. I believe...I believe that the majority of the members of this body believe the approach is to leave this decision up to their local areas and to their local Boards and all the massive mail I have received on this issue, it is my judgment, it is my judgment that that is what the people of this state are saying and so I think that we ought not mess around with the superficial parts of it but let's establish the philosophy, whether we want 344 with the local control or whether you have some other alternative, and that is to let the state assume the whole ball of wax for it. So I'd ask that you adopt the Committee amendments and advance the bill to E & R Initial.

SPEAKER BURBACH PRESIDING

SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes Senator Dickinson.

SENATOR DICKINSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, first a question of Senator Lewis.

SPEAKER: Do you yield, Senator Lewis?